Appl. No.: 09/889,321

## **Amendment to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA and/or its expression product comprising:

providing an immature T lymphocyte transfected with the foreign DNA; introducing the immature T lymphocyte into thymus.

2. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, comprising:

providing an immature T lymphocyte transfected with the foreign DNA; introducing the immature T lymphocyte into thymus and subsequently expressing said foreign DNA in thymus organ.

- 3. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign DNA comprises at least a gene encoding a substance causing allergic diseases or a substance causing auto-immune diseases.
- 4. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign DNA comprises at least a gene encoding a peptide used for therapeutic medicament.

Appl. No.: 09/889,321

5. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA

and/or its expression product according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign DNA comprises at least a

gene and a vector.

6. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA

and/or its expression product according to Claim 5, wherein the vector is a viral vector for

transferring a foreign gene.

7. (Previously presented) The method of acquiring immunological tolerance to a foreign DNA

and/or its expression product according to Claim 6, wherein the viral vector is a vector derived

from retrovirus, adenovirus, or lentivirus.

8. (Currently amended) A method of sustaining a gene therapeutic effect in gene therapy

comprising:

providing an immature T lymphocyte transfected with the foreign gene DNA; and

introducing the immature T lymphocyte into a thymus.

9. (Currently amended) A method of sustaining a gene therapeutic effect and avoiding immune

response caused by a foreign DNA and/or its expression product in gene therapy, comprising:

providing an immature T lymphocyte transfected with the a foreign gene; and

introducing the immature T lymphocyte into thymus and subsequently expressing said

foreign gene in thymus organ.

10. (Previously presented) The method of sustaining a gene therapeutic effect in gene therapy

according to Claim 8, wherein the foreign DNA comprises at least a gene and a vector.

11. (Previously presented) The method of sustaining a gene therapeutic effect in gene therapy

-3-

Appl. No.: 09/889,321

according to Claim 10 wherein the vector is a viral vector for transferring a foreign gene.

12. (Previously presented) The method of sustaining a gene therapeutic effect in gene therapy

according to Claim 11 wherein the viral vector is a vector derived from retrovirus, adenovirus, or

lentivirus.

13. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product characterized in that the foreign DNA is transferred into

thymus mediated by fetal T lymphocytes.

14. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 13, characterized in that a foreign-DNA-

transferred fetal T lymphocyte is introduced into thymus and said foreign DNA is expressed in

thymus organ.

15. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 13, characterized in that the foreign DNA

is DNA which at least comprises a vector.

16. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 15 characterized in that the vector is a

viral vector for transferring a foreign gene.

17. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 16 characterized in that the viral vector is

a vector derived from retrovirus, adenovirus, or lentivirus.

-4-

Appl. No.: 09/889,321

18. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 13, characterized in that the non-human

animal belongs to rodents.

19. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal that has acquired immunological tolerance to a foreign

DNA and/or its expression product according to Claim 18 characterized in that the non-human

animal which belongs to rodents is a mouse.

-5-